

**Funding Action Team  
Meeting Notes  
February 17, 2006**

**Attendance** T. Petko, A. Clover, B. Blaesing, E. Mullen, R. Lehman, M. Frierson, E. Timpf, P. Kazmierski, M. Norder

**Meeting Overview** Theresa spoke about the upcoming presentation to the MDOT Commission on the summit activities (no date has been set). She gave a report from the Moderator's Meeting held on February 6. A handout of the 2005 Goals and Accomplishments, as well as the 2006 Goals for the Funding Action Team was discussed.

**Meeting Notes** Myron thanked Theresa for all of her hard work during the past two years in chairing the Funding Action Team. She has done an excellent job and her hard work was very much appreciated.

Rich Lehman provided an update on the recent efforts of MITA to increase transportation funding.

"Drive MI", formed through MITA, is involved in a variety of activities to advocate for additional transportation funding. The campaign goal is to raise \$2 million to fund public awareness activities and legislative initiatives.

MITA has hired Triad of Columbus, Ohio, to work with the Michigan Transportation Team to educate the legislators and the citizens of the State of Michigan on transportation issues. Myron thought the education campaign was a good idea, since most of the time the benefits of the increase in transportation taxes aren't discussed with taxpayers, only the tax increases.

This group wants to use a high visibility media effort to educate every candidate running for any state office on the importance of "funding of roads."

Rich feels the Funding Action Team should continue on as another voice. Increased education is needed.

Contributions to the Michigan Transportation Team (MTT) since August 2005 have been \$1.8 million pledged.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> a new Trip Report is due out. This report compiles and reports on road condition data throughout the country.

Rich will ask Mike Nystrom to make a presentation to the Funding Action Team at its next meeting scheduled for April 21, 2006.

Brian suggested that a presentation be made at the CRAM conference on March 7 and 8. Rich will contact Mike Nystrom to ask for a PowerPoint presentation and to get on the CRAM agenda.

Rich wrote an article that appeared in the January 7 issue of Michigan Contractor & Builder titled "Michigan Needs More Road Funding," which highlights the shortfall expected in the Highway Trust Fund. Copies were passed out to members present. The federal highway bill expires in just 3 ½ years.

Myron suggested members of the committee review the proposed state constitution amendment on condemnation to assess its impact on transportation funding and projects.

MDOT's budget was introduced last week with a 1.6% increase, \$3.4 billion operating budget. Myron further discussed the breakdowns of the budget. It was requested that Ed mail information from the budget to members present.

Brian reported on the efforts of the group Businesses for Better Roads (BBR) in Oakland County. Mitchell Group from Lansing was hired to poll members of the community, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties, about increasing local fees for transportation. The responses were overwhelmingly negative, perhaps due to the polling time (November 2005). It does support the need to educate the public further on the need to support transportation. Further initiatives may also include members from Macomb, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties.

It was agreed with members present to continue on with the Funding Action Team and meet the third Friday, every other month, at the secondary complex.

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**Next Meeting  
Date**

Next meeting is set for April 21, 2006, 9:30 to 12:30PM., Secondary Complex, Lake Superior Room.